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Christ's week of passion

By KITCH SHATZER

This past Sunday, Palm Sunday (or Passion Sunday) began Christ's week of Passion and declared his greatness -- his kingship over us.

It was an affirming day even before his victory over suffering and death.

In it I see how Jesus Christ can take claim of our total lives. I see him doing this in using an animal, the donkey (private property); in influencing the nation by entering its capital city, Jerusalem; in setting in order the temple, the place of worship; in teaching and healing in the temple courts; in entering Mary and Martha's home in Bethany. This says to me that he lays claim on my life and all of its parts. He does not force his way. He stands outside and knocks at the door. I have to let him in if I want him to rule my life. But do I really?

I am so headstrong and stubborn. I want to be my own boss. I want to call the shots and be in control. I want to do my own thing. I want to run my own life. I vow I'll let Christ rule, but when it comes to something very close to my selfish interests, I take over. I mess things up, more often than not. Thus, I know that I need someone to master me. I am made for some ruler, some king, some authority. I know no one else will do as well as Jesus Christ. I need grace and help to enable me to open my life more to him.

This Sunday we will celebrate the resurrection of Christ, and the gift of salvation he has given to all who are open to receive it. In order to received it fully and be open to God's salvation, we must be prepared to give up our own lives, our own control of ourselves and let Christ rule in every way, in every part of our lives, large and small, significant and insignificant. May God give us grace to let ourselves be conquered by Christ.

The pastor speaks

Mary Magdalene: Messenger of joy

By WILLIAM L. TRIMYER
Mary Magdalene: Messenger of Joy
Lesson for April 6, 1980
Scripture References: John 20: 1-18, 30-31
Focal Passages: John 20: 1-2, 11-18
Jesus and Women

One of the striking aspects of the New Testament is the recognizable role of women in their relationship to Jesus. Women were generally viewed as non-persons in the days of Jesus. They had no power, no authority, no real place in society except as housekeepers. Jesus reversed such attitudes and affirmed women as persons, thus opening the way for them to be recognized as human beings with rights.

Mary of Magdala was a significant person to Jesus. She traveled with Jesus and stood by him at his bloody crucifixion. Mary was also the first person to whom Jesus appeared after his resurrection, which seems to suggest that Mary was with Jesus through the "thick and thin."

A Dark Day (John 20:1-2)

The day of Jesus' crucifixion was a dark, gloomy day for his followers. In his death they saw an end to their leader and the severing of all hopes for his establishment, of an earthly kingdom. When the sun was setting on the life of Jesus, the disciples probably saw no hope of a sunrise on such a dark occasion.

It is interesting to note that Mary Magdalene came to the tomb "while it was yet dark." Her being there at such an early hour reflects perhaps her inner struggles of grief over her loss. Perhaps she simply needed to return to the tomb once more to be close to Jesus. Maybe she even came back to see if there was anything to Jesus' talk about rising on the third day.

And when she came she discovered the giant tomb stone had been removed. Such a sight must have startled her, for in fear and trembling she ran to tell the other disciples of what she had seen.

She says to the other disciples, "They have taken him away." The "They" must be a reference to the Romans or chief priests. The empty tomb holds for us a sense of fascination for the power of God. In the scene of the empty tomb we are encouraged that Jesus was not a victim of death, but the victor over death.

The Bible and daily living

A line from John Donne's poem, "Death be not Proud," reads:

...one short sleep past
we wake eternally,
and death, thou shalt die

The Hour of Grief (John 20:11-15)

No one knows deep pain until they stand over the freshly dug grave where a loved one lies in death. Such pain is almost unbearable - it hurts deeply.

Mary Magdalene had an experience uncommon to what we experience or can imagine. Her weeping was heavy for her Lord and friend, but in her hour of grief she was strangely comforted by two angels sitting where Jesus once lay. The image of their sitting down, one at the head and one at the feet where Jesus once lay, suggest they were conveying the message that everything was alright.

Some suggest that Mary should not have shed any tears for Jesus, but such a notion is not in line with biblical teachings. The Bible says to us, "Grieve not as those who have no hope." (I Thess. 4:13) The Christian faith has never said that a truly religious person does not grieve.

Our biggest concern should not be for those who openly grieve, but for those who tend to hold back their pain, as if to swallow it. Society tends to put a lid on expression of feelings, saying, "Be done with your grieving. Let's get back to the business at hand."

But back to Mary. She was stunned to encounter Jesus as her risen Lord. At first she did not recognize him, thinking that he was the gardner. Mary's mind was racing for answers to the open tomb and the missing body of Jesus. We understand, I think, that Mary's actions only reveal her love for her Lord. One can't help but be deeply moved by her responses.

The Hour of Joy (John 20: 16-18)

Communion is the Christian's way of remembering the redemptive work of Christ. Easter is the celebration of a victorious life over death and evil. As we watch Mary at the tomb, we are compelled to stand with her. What a joy for her to recognize her Lord and to be recognized by him. This seems to suggest that in whatever state, we know him and are known by him.

Mary experienced ecstatic joy at the sight of Jesus. Her first response was to want to run to him and embrace him. She longed to hold onto Jesus that she might not lose him again. But Jesus cautions Mary that his earthly mission was completed and that he would soon "go to the Father."

Mary became a messenger of hope and joy as she went to the other disciples to share her discovery. Messengers of joy are always welcome. Its those messengers of doom that bother us. We hate to see the surgeon emerge from behind the swinging doors marked "Surgery," for we fear his news. We long for the arrival of news that will delight and fill us with joy.

The Easter event is just that; it is a message of joy. Let's celebrate!

Dr. Trimyer is pastor of Elon Baptist Church in Pamplin, Va.

By County resident Decal method questioned

Editor's note: the following letter was addressed to the county board of supervisors, with a copy submitted to the Times-Virginian for publication.

Gentlemen:

I would like to use this letter as a means of conveying my personal opinion and the opinion of many automobile owners in Appomattox County. Since the motor vehicle county decal method of taxing Appomattox County citizens was initiated several years ago, many automobile owners have been faced with the task of spending hours, on one of two Saturdays in March, standing in line waiting to purchase decals. I do not intend for this letter to be taken as a complaint about our County Treasurer or her Office. I merely want you to consider the variables in this problem.

1. Our County leaders and officials should not forget the fact that many hundreds of Appomattox County citizens work outside of Appomattox County and are not able to purchase this decal except on Saturday. It should also be noted that many of these citizens work on Saturday and must take time off from work simply to purchase a motor vehicle decal.

2. Many citizens of Appomattox County must drive at least thirty (30) miles (round trip) for the single purpose of purchasing a motor vehicle decal. Is this conserving energy?

3. Many citizens are spending many hours of valuable time waiting in line merely to purchase motor vehicle decals. Spring is a busy time for farmers and gardeners alike. Additionally, time has become a luxury for most people in our fast life style today. This is a waste of time.

4. It is my understanding that the Treasurer's Office is open from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM. Most non-agricultural employed citizens go to work before 9:00 AM and get off after 4:00 PM, which requires one to attempt to buy the decal on Saturday as mentioned in Item 1.

I have attempted to list a few variables associated with the motor vehicle decal problem facing Appomattox County citizens and I would now like to take this means to offer a few suggestions for future changes.

1. Many area counties have initiated programs whereby the County Treasurer's Office mails out application forms to automobile owners who, in turn, must fill out the application and mail the application, along with the applicable remittance, back to the Treasurer's Office. The Treasurer's Office then processes the application and returns the motor vehicle decal by mail. This system works well in Campbell County, Amherst County, Bedford County and the City of Lynchburg, to name a few. Attached to this letter are sample applications.

2. Consider having the County Treasurer maintain additional office hours during the month of March. For example, stay open three to five nights until 9:00 PM. Along these same lines, consider staggered hours, such as 12:00 AM to 7:00 PM for one week during March.

3. Consider adding decal agencies throughout the County in service stations or rural grocery stores that remain open after working hours for many citizens.

These are only a few suggestions that exist. I am sure other citizens of Appomattox County can offer other suggestions. Your thorough evaluation of this problem is requested and an answer to the Citizens of Appomattox County is expected in the near future.

Thanks for your continued service and cooperation.

Sincerely,
John D. (Danny) Simpson, Jr.
P. O. Box 561
Appomattox, Va. 24522

County food stamp program conducts necessity survey

The Appomattox County Food Stamp Program is conducting a needs assessment survey. The public's opinion is needed on how to improve the Food Stamp Program in Appomattox County.

If you have any suggestions on this subject, please feel free to contact the Appomattox County Department of Social Services, Box 517, Appomattox, Virginia; or call 352-7125.

Pamplin AARP meets

Pamplin Chapter of AARP will hold its regular monthly meeting Thursday, April 3 at 6:30 p.m. in the Pamplin Charge Methodist Church.

The meeting that was scheduled to be held on March 13 had to be canceled because of inclement weather, so the entire program that was scheduled for that time, including a talk given by Evelyn Ford, will be presented at that time.

Residents of Appomattox County and surrounding areas are invited to attend and enjoy the friendly atmosphere created by this group.

Please bring a good appetite.

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Faye Lewis and three children, Ricky, Patricia and Robert have returned home after spending a week with her brother and his family. During their week in New York the Lewises were taken on a trip to Canada.

The Lewises are planning a June trip to New York this year to visit Faye's niece, Miss Janet McFadden, on her graduation.

* * *

Mrs. Lucille Harvey is spending some time in Arlington with her mother, Mrs. Winnie B. Akers.

* * *

Mrs. Mildred Burkey and Miss Nola Burkey have returned from visits in Chester, Va. and Sanford N.C.

While in Sanford they attended the Burkey family reunion at the home of Mr. and Mrs. R. L. Burkey and sons, Trent and Mark.

Others present were Mr. and Mrs. J. L. Burkey of Chester, Va., and Mr. and Mrs. Gene Paulette and son Jonathan of Urbanna, Va.

* * *

Mrs. John Scott Rocke

Miss Cheatham is wed to Mr. Rocke

Nan Madison Cheatham, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. James Elliot Cheatham, of Clearwater, Fla., was married to John Scott Rocke, a son of Mr. and Mrs. Roger Rocke of Lincoln, Nebraska on Sunday, March 23, 1980, at the Skyerest United Methodist Church in Clearter. The Rev. Richard Bingham was the officiating minister.

The bride, escorted by her father and given in marriage by her father and mother, wore a family heirloom wedding gown which had been worn by four other family brides including her mother. The gown, fashioned of white satin was designed along traditional lines with a long train and veil.

Maid of honor was Miss Rebecca Walker, of Clearwater, Florida. Bridesmaids were Jan Stanley, of Appomattox, Mrs. Laura Cheatham, of Clearwater, Jan Rocke and Julia Rocke, of Lincoln, Nebraska.

The couple will make their home in St. Petersburg, Fla., after a honeymoon in Atlanta, Ga.

Mrs. Boyd Junius Johnson

Plum Branch Woman's Club holds meeting

Plum Branch Woman's Club held its regular meeting at the home of Mrs. Jill Roberson at 7:30 p.m. March 20.

Mrs. Jill Roberson was hostess for the meeting. Mrs. Roberson read the devotions and club president Mrs. H. A. Parke presided at the business session. Guest for the evening was Mrs. Marie Lester of West Virginia.

Officers were elected at the meeting to serve two-year terms. The new officers include Mrs. Dorothy Raasch, president; Mrs. Gerrie Heighton, first vice president; Mrs. Lill Stacy, second vice president; Mrs. Rita Stacy, recording secretary; and Mrs. Thelma Holloway, treasurer.

Chairmen of departments and divisions elected include: Mrs. Lorene Smith, education; Mrs. Katie White, home life; Mrs. Darlene Kersey, mental health; Mrs. Jill Roberson, safety; Mrs. Tish Parke, public affairs; Mrs. Gerrie Heighton, fine arts; Mrs. Loretta Dirzuweit, historian; Mrs. Tish Parke, ways and means; Mrs. Hilda Dalton, health; Mrs. Tish Parke, free enterprise; Mrs. Loretta Dirzuweit, publicity; Mrs. Gerrie Heighton, program.

The club's program meeting was held March 27 at 7:30 p.m. in the home of Mr. and Mrs. John Dirzuweit. Program Chairman, Mrs. Russell Raasch, introduced the guest, Miss Patsy Kerr from 4-H. She gave a speech on safety and citizenship. Miss Kerr has won a trip to Chicago to compete on the matnal level.

Mrs. Anna Eelan also gave a program on "aids for people with physical limitations." A demonstration was shown on different kinds of things that the handicapped can do for themselves.

Mrs. John Dirzuweit was hostess for the program of the evening.

Miss Austin is wed to Mr. Johnson

The marriage of Miss Doris Rebecca Austin to Boyd Junius Johnson took place at 4:30, Saturday, March 22 at Jordan Baptist Church in Appomattox.

The bride is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Cris S. Austin of Route 4, Appomattox, and the bridegroom is the son of Mrs. Mattie Johnson of Lynchburg.

The Rev. Curtis L. Elliott, pastor of the church, officiated at the double ring ceremony.

The bride, escorted and given in marriage by her father, wore a dress fashioned of white chalk crepe and Venice lace. The empire bodice is finished with a Queen Anne neckline and long straight sleeves. Motifs of lace are appliqued on the bodice and a band of lace outlines the high rise waistline, the edge of the sleeves and the hemline of the skirt, which ends in a circular chapel train. Her veil was a three-quarter length mantilla of silk illusion, edged and appliqued with Venice lace.

She carried a bouquet of silk flowers which included white roses, lily of the valley, daisies, apple blossoms and fern.

Mrs. Clarence W. Durrette of Staunton, sister of the bride, was matron of honor. She wore a floor length gown of kelly green Quiana with a empire waist and cape collar. She carried a dressed white carnaiton with ribbon the color of her dress and the braidesmaids' dresses and wore in her hair a white pompom tinted to match her dress with a kelly green net.

Bridesmaids were Miss Willie E. Jones of Appomattox, cousin of the bride; Mrs. Creed D. Rucker of Evington, Miss Evelyn Jenkins, and Mrs. Joan R. Dade, both of Lynchburg. They wore mint green dresses made like that of the matron of honor and carried dressed white carnations with ribbon to match the honor attendent's dress and also wore in their hair white pomporns tinted to match their dresses with mint green net.

Kenneth Callen of Hopewell was best man. Head ushers were Clyde Hicks of Lynchburg, and Steve Lacy of Concord. Other ushers were Calvin Brown and Brad Lacy both of Lynchburg. They wore mint green tuxedos trimed in medium green with medium green pants. The shirts were white trimmed in green. The groom wore a mint green tuxedo trimmed in medium green with mint green pants, and a white, shirt trimmed in green.

Miss Stacy Trent of Appomattox, cousin of the bride, was flower girl and Rodney Mickles of Evington was ring bearer.

Arrangements of white carnations, gladiolas, ferns and white tapers in silver cathedral candelabras decorated the altar area of the church for the exchange of the vows.

The bride's mother wore a peach dress of Quiana with a cape. The groom's mother wore a aquamarine dress of crepe with chiffon sleeves.

Mrs. Helen West and Mr. Charles Shaw of Lynchburg, provided the music for the occasion. Mr. Shaw sang "Because" and "Always and Forever."

Mrs. Martha Watkins of Concord, cousin of the bride, was director.

After the ceremony Mr. and Mrs. Austin entertained with a reception in the church fellowship hall.

The bride was graduated from Carver-Price High School in Appomattox, and Central Virginia Community College in Lynchburg. She is employed by Nationwide Insurance Co.

The bridegroom was graduated from E. C. Glass High School in Lynchburg and is employed by Limitorque Corporation.

After a southern wedding trip the couple is living in Lynchburg.

Appomattox Woman's Club will meet Monday night

The Woman's Club of Appomattox will hold its regular monthly meeting on Monday, April 7 at 7:30 p.m. at the Farmers National Bank, Triangle Plaza.

Mayor Ronald Spiggle will present an overview of the projects of the town of Appomattox, past and present. The public affairs department is in charge of the program.

Hostesses for the evening are Mrs. Martin Webb, Mrs. Dennis Vance, Mrs. Hannon Wilson and Mrs. Leonard Anderson.

Celebrates birthday

Miss Jennifer Lynn Franklin celebrated her third birthday with a dinner and party at the home of her grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Landon E. Bryant, of Appomattox on March 18, 1980.

Jennifer is the daughter of Mrs. Judy B. Watson.

Those attending were Cindy, L. E. Mary Lee, Darrell Bryant, Mrs. Della Thomas, great grandmoth er, and Dwight Dixon.

Jennifer received many useful gifts and had a very nice time.

Wedding date is set

The marriage of Miss Angie Mechelle Crowe to Michael W. Elliott will take place Saturday evening at 7 o'clock in the Bible Baptist Church.

Although no invitations are being sent all friends and relatives are invited.

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LittleMissCharlotteCounty is crowned

Rhonda Barksdale

Rhonda Michelle Barksdale, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. James Barksdale of Phenix was crowned "Little Miss Charlotte County 1980", Saturday night, Mar. 29 at the Eureka Community Building in Keysville, Va. This was the first pageant held in Charlotte County for the "Little Miss" title.

Rhonda was sponsored by "Sleepy" Harris-Bethel Exxon of Phenix. Rhonda was crowned by Little Miss Charlotte County 1979, Susan Marie Epperson, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Epperson of Brookneal.

Rhonda is a 7-year-old student at Phenix Elementary School and is in the second grade. She also attends Yamaha Music School in Appomattox.

Rhonda enjoys twirling her baton and playing the piano. Rhonda's ambition is to be a singer.

Rhonda is the granddaughter of Mr. and Mrs. John L. Barksdale of Phenix and Mr. and Mrs. Emmett E. Tolbert of Pamplin.

Rhonda will represent Charlotte County in the "Little Miss Virginia" Pageant held in August.

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